

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing plate processing apparatus in which a photosensitive printing plate which has undergone image exposure is subjected to developing processing by being immersed in a developing solution, comprising:

a pair of conveying rollers which is driven to rotate in a state in which one of the rollers is partially immersed in the developing solution, thereby nipping and conveying the printing plate immersed in the developing solution;

a measuring instrument which measures an amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is in a stopped state; and

a controller which controls a drive rotation of the pair of conveying rollers, wherein, when operation of the apparatus is started, said controller controls so as to drive the rotation of the pair of conveying rollers for a period of time, which is previously set in accordance with the measured amount of time, prior to developing processing.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said pair of conveying rollers is disposed so as to deliver the printing plate for subsequent processing while squeezing out the developing solution from the printing plate.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said measuring instrument comprises a timer.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a setting section for setting a driving time of the pair of conveying rollers corresponding to the measured time, wherein said controller controls a drive rotation of the pair of conveying rollers for a period of the time set by the setting section.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said setting section can set the driving time of the pair of conveying rollers in accordance with carbon dioxide concentration and the measured time.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a detector for detecting a concentration of carbon dioxide in an environment in which the apparatus is installed, wherein the driving time of the pair of conveying rollers is determined based on the detected carbon dioxide concentration and the measured time.

7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said setting section makes a setting such that a cleaning plate is used in respective specified ranges of the carbon dioxide concentration and the measured time.

8. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said setting section is provided with an operation panel for inputting a setting condition and a setting value of the driving time of the pair of conveying rollers, and a memory in which the inputted content is held.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the setting condition includes an amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers has been in a stopped state at the time at which an instruction for start-up of operation is given to the apparatus.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the setting condition includes a concentration of carbon dioxide in an environment in which the apparatus is installed at the time at which an instruction for start-up of operation is given to the apparatus.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller controls so as not to drive the rotation of the pair of conveying rollers in a case in which the amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is in a stopped state is less than a predetermined value.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is in a stopped state is a stoppage time of the apparatus.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the driving time of the pair of conveying rollers is set so as to increase as the amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is in a stopped state becomes greater.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the driving time of the pair

of conveying rollers is set so as to increase as a concentration of carbon dioxide in an environment in which the apparatus is installed becomes higher.

15. A printing plate developing method in which a photosensitive printing plate which has undergone image exposure is subjected to developing processing by being immersed in a developing solution, said method comprising:

providing a pair of conveying rollers for conveying the printing plate immersed in the developing solution configured to rotate in a state in which one of the rollers is partially immersed in the developing solution;

setting an amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is driven to rotate in accordance with an amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is in a stopped state;

measuring the amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is in a stopped state;

at the time at which operation of the apparatus is started, determining, based on said setting, an amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is driven to rotate, which amount of time corresponds to the measured amount of time; and

prior to start-up of developing processing, driving the rotation of the pair of conveying rollers for a period of the determined amount of time.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of detecting carbon dioxide concentration, wherein said step of setting the amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is driven to rotate comprises setting the driving time of the pair of conveying rollers based on the detected concentration of carbon dioxide and the measured amount of time.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the driving time of the pair of conveying rollers is set so as to increase as the amount of time that the pair of conveying rollers is in a stopped state becomes greater.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the driving time of the pair of conveying rollers is set so as to increase as a concentration of carbon dioxide in an environment in which the apparatus is installed becomes higher.